

Development Challenges, South-South Solutions April 2011

Stories

1) Solar Sisters Doing it for Themselves: Tackling African Light Famine

A social enterprise is seeking to capture the power of the sun to bring light and economic opportunity to women in Africa. Using a direct-marketing distribution system, it sells solar lamps and lanterns to some of Africa's remotest communities. Solar Sister (www.solarsister.org), launched in Uganda in 2010, is hoping to do for power generation what mobile phones have done for communication in Africa: make a technological leap to a model of grassroots power generation, rather than waiting for large-scale power schemes to eventually reach the poor and rural.

More than 1.7 billion people around the world have no domestic electricity supply, of which more than 500 million live in sub-Saharan Africa (World Bank).

Solar power is being creatively used in many countries to tackle energy poverty and give women, in particular, viable sources of income. In India, whole villages are already using solar energy and improving their standard of living. Various companies and projects are selling inexpensive solar appliances - from cooking stoves to lanterns and power generators - across the country.

A billion Africans use just four percent of the world's electricity (The Economist). Energy poverty is already harming further economic growth and development gains. With Africa's population expected to double to 2 billion by 2050, the gap between people's needs and the power available is stark: in Nigeria, out of 79 power stations, only 17 are working (The Economist).

A report by the International Finance Corporation called the sub-Saharan solar market the largest in the world - a market of 65 million would-be customers, who could access off-grid lighting over the next five years (IFC). The report anticipated high growth rates of 40 to 50 percent for anyone entering the market, with less than one percent of the market currently being served.

Being able to see at night unleashes a vast range of possibilities, such as being able to work or study later. But for the very poor, lighting is often the most expensive household expense.

As Solar Sister founder Katherine Lucey points out, households "rely on kerosene lanterns and candles for light. They spend up to 40 percent of their family income on energy that is inefficient, insufficient and hazardous. Widespread use of kerosene has an adverse impact on local air quality as well as on global climate change.

"Poor lighting, smoke and rudimentary lanterns are responsible for a large number of infections and burn injuries. Within the household, women are responsible for kerosene purchases and use - in order for new clean energy technology to be adopted at the household level, women have to 'buy in' to the technology."

And this is the challenge: to find an affordable - and sustainable - way to bring electricity and energy to people living in remote and rural areas. These are places that face stark options: to remain off-grid and energy poor, or to abandon their communities and join the many millions across the global South on the march to urban and semi-urban areas in search of income and opportunity.

Lucey says that could be "a recipe for disaster".

"In a country like Uganda, with a population of 32 million people, it is not possible to have them all move to Kampala to access electricity," she said. "It would overburden already stretched infrastructure and services and disrupt the social and economic structures of an entire population. In the end, it can challenge the stability of entire nations."

The Solar Sister direct-marketing model works like this: micro-investment capital of US \$500 is invested in one Solar Sister Entrepreneur and she receives a 'business in a bag': a start-up kit of inventory, training and marketing resources. As her own boss, she has a strong incentive to succeed. She uses the money to purchase a consignment of lamps or lanterns, which she then sells, encouraging people to replace kerosene lamps with solar lamps: healthier, safer and better for the environment. She is encouraged to use her existing networks of family, friends and neighbours to reach rural and hard-to-reach customers.

The Solar Sister, after succeeding in selling the first consignment of lamps, then receives training in marketing and inventory and business skills. She can then move on to be a team leader and recruit other Solar Sisters. She earns a commission from the lamp sales, which help to improve her ability to pay for healthcare, education and food for her family. She then repays the cash for the lamps and the cycle starts all over again with a new consignment.

The model will sound familiar to many: it is what has built successful marketing machines like the famous all-women's make-up and beauty products seller Avon (www.avon.com). Or the other famous direct marketing behemoth, Amway (www.amway.co.uk).

The Solar Sister model is heavily dependent on the success of word-of-mouth to grow:

"What we have found is that the women are the best distribution system for bringing new technology to rural households since they sell through their trusted networks of family, friends and neighbours," Lucey said. "They use the lamps themselves, and then talk passionately about the benefits: the better

light, the money they save by not having to buy kerosene, the amount of time their children are able to study, the cleaner air and safer environment for their kids."

According to Lucey, the business model "brings solar technology right to the women's doorstep. The Solar Sister business model developed as a grass-roots solution to the gender-based technology gap. Women make up 70 percent of the rural poor, but are often left out 'in the dark' when it comes to technology solutions."

It is still early days for Solar Sister, which has been in operation for just over a year and now has 107 Solar Sister Entrepreneurs working in 10 teams reaching 34 communities in three countries - Uganda, Rwanda and Sudan. Lucey says the goal is to build a network of 1,500 female entrepreneurs in Africa over the next two years, benefiting over 1 million people.

Apart from the business model and the new technology, there is a radical concept at the heart of Solar Sister: to replicate for electricity generation the distributed and rapid growth that has been seen with mobile phones. In just five years, the availability of mobile phones in Africa increased by 550 percent.

"Distributed energy, such as solar, puts the investment in energy generation rather than transmission, and breaks the problem into smaller, achievable, components that do not have to wait for political processes for implementation," explains Lucey. "It allows for the possibility that people can solve their own problems rather than wait for government or NGOs to come solve their energy problems for them. Distributed solar has the potential to leap-frog the 20th century grid-based solution, much like mobile phones have done in the telecom industry."

One of the solar lanterns for sale is manufactured by D.Light Design. Their newest lantern model is called Kiran (http://www.dlightdesign.com/products_kiran_global.php). It sells for US \$10 and provides up to eight hours of light on a full battery, its manufacturers say. D.Light Design calls it the "\$10 Kerosene Killer" because it believes it has the right mix of price and technology to trump the need to use kerosene lanterns. The lantern gives off a white light powerful enough so people can read, study or do domestic tasks. A solar panel sits on top of the lantern, which is shaped like a drinking thermos with a large carry handle on top.

Other solar lamps/lanterns have been burdened by cost, ranging in price from US \$15 to US \$30: a prohibitive price for many poor people.

The ubiquity of mobile phone payments in Africa has made it much easier to transfer funds back and forth between the entrepreneurs and Solar Sister. And since its launch, Solar Sister has learned how to change and adapt to local conditions.

"These women are the experts in their local communities of what works and what doesn't," Lucey said. "Solar Sister Viola (<http://www.solarsister.org/voila-uganda>) decided to visit the roadside market stalls at night when shopkeepers were burning kerosene lamps for light. She got their instant attention with the high brightness of her solar powered lamps.

"Solar Sister's mission is to bring more and more women from the veils of smoke, darkness and anonymity to the forefront of a clean energy revolution."

LINKS:

- 1) D.light Design: Their lights use LEDs (light emitting diodes) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LED_lamp) and are four times brighter than a kerosene lantern according to D.Light Design. **Website:** www.dlightdesign.com
- 2) Lighting Africa: Lighting Africa, a joint IFC and World Bank program, is helping develop commercial off-grid lighting markets in Sub-Saharan Africa as part of the World Bank Group's wider efforts to improve access to energy. Lighting Africa is mobilizing the private sector to build sustainable markets to provide safe, affordable, and modern off-grid lighting to 2.5 million people in Africa by 2012 and to 250 million people by 2030. **Website:** www.lightingafrica.org
- 3) *Solar Lighting for the Base of the Pyramid - Overview of an Emerging Market, a report by the International Finance Corporation* finding Africa will be the world's largest market for solar portable lights by 2015. The report addresses market trends and statistics at a global level with more detailed analysis for the African market. **Website:** www.lightingafrica.org/market-intelligence/market-trends-assessment.html
- 4) How We Made It Africa: A website detailing success stories on businesses investing in Africa and how people are making the most of opportunities on the continent. **Website:** www.howwemadeitinafrica.com
- 5) Barefoot College: The College is training women to be solar engineers, developing both useful skills and a new income source. So far, Barefoot College itself has solar electrified some 350 villages across India and dozens more in sub-Saharan Africa and even war-torn Afghanistan. **Website:** www.barefootcollege.org
- 6) Solar Power Answers is a one-stop-shop for everything to do with solar power. It has a design manual and guides to the complex world of solar power equipment. **Website:** www.solar-power-answers.co.uk/index.php
- 7) Sun King solar lantern: The lantern provides 16 hours of light for a day's charge. **Website:** www.greenlightplanet.com/ourusers.html
- 8) ToughStuff has developed a modular range of affordable solar powered energy solutions to the three main power needs of poor consumers in the developing world – lighting, mobile phones and radios. **Website:** www.toughstuffonline.com

2) South Africa Innovates Healthcare with Prepay Phone Vouchers

Pioneers in Africa are experimenting with new ways to fund the delivery of healthcare that is affordable and sustainable and not dependent on foreign aid

and donations. A South African company is prototyping the selling of pre-payment healthcare services through mobile phones with a range of vouchers that can be bought and downloaded at the tap of a keypad. They are priced at between US \$12 and US \$49 and cover medical and dental check-ups, tests, treatments, chronic care and medicines. They are flexible and can also be sent to friends and family who need help.

In South Africa, poverty is still widespread. The majority black population has a median income of US \$2,000 a year (New Internationalist) and many still live in crowded townships and poor rural communities. Poverty has also increased for many white Afrikaner South Africans (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrikaner>). A study by the Standard Bank of South Africa found the number of whites earning less than US \$80 a month grew from 2000 to 2004 by more than 50 per cent. In the government capital of Pretoria, 50 Afrikaner squatter camps have emerged in recent years. For many, affordable healthcare is a critical issue.

The story of healthcare in Africa is not a linear one of constant progress. The continent as whole achieved its lowest child mortality rates in the 1970s. But after that, the quality of healthcare declined as a result of various factors including economic crises and the HIV/AIDS crisis - both of which overwhelmed public systems. In sub-Saharan Africa, health systems reached rock bottom in the late 1990s.

"Few people could afford annual check-ups, medicines or user fees at hospitals," wrote Dr. Ebrahim Malick Samba in the paper "African health care systems: what went wrong?" for News Medical (www.news-medical.net). "One result was the resurgence of infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and cholera.

"Prior to the 1980s, the district hospitals, community health centres and other outreach health posts provided medical services and essential drugs free of charge. With reforms, user fees and cost recovery were introduced, and the sale of drugs was liberalized.

"Many governments discontinued budget support to the health sector which paralysed the public health system. There was no money for medical equipment and maintenance; salaries and working conditions declined."

Things have been steadily improving from this low base through the 2000s, the result of increased aid funding for public health systems and greater national investments in staff, facilities and equipment. There is still a long way to go, but Africa is becoming a world leader in developing and deploying mobile phone applications for health and healthcare.

Despite dramatic improvements to the quality of hospitals and the number of qualified doctors, the continent's healthcare services are still a patchwork, with rural and slum dwellers poorly served and the stresses of treating patients with contagious diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria pushing resources to the limit.

Research has shown it is better and fairer to develop pre-payment mechanisms for healthcare than to just hit patients with fees when they are ill. With pre-payment, a person can buy care services when they are financially able to and bank up care for when they become ill and not able to work and save.

This is a crucial issue for people with low incomes who can quickly be devastated by their illness or that of loved one or family member.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has taken a firm stand against so-called out-of-pocket payments and encourages the growth in pre-payment methods. The World Health Report 2000 found that "Fairness of financial risk protection requires the highest possible degree of separation between contributions and utilization."

South Africa's Yaron Care (www.yaronacare.co.za/prepaid.html) - a health insurance provider network - is rolling out prepaid mobile phone vouchers, allowing patients to see doctors or dentists and even traditional healers for treatment. When a patient visits, the healthcare worker redeems the mobile phone voucher to get paid. One product, Impilo Go, allows people to pay for one visit to a doctor and seven days of medicine for R230 (US \$34). For people on a tighter budget, there is Impilo Care for R80 (US\$12). A patient can visit a nurse practitioner for a medical check-up and receive tests.

Impilo One offers medicines alone for R100, while Impilo Plus for R195 (US \$29) is aimed at people with chronic conditions. They can get a prescription from the doctor and then go to a pharmacy participating in the scheme to receive medicines.

Dental work is also covered by the vouchers.

An online demonstration shows how the mobile phone process works (www.yaronacare.co.za/cellphonedemo.html).

The service is marketed at a mix of customers, from individuals to corporate clients looking to cover large numbers of people to government and NGOs. They can purchase services by voucher, payroll schemes or mobile phones.

Prepaid by mobile phone as a concept is already well established across Africa. It is a simple way to make payments and sell services. In the case of Yaron's offering, the customer or patient uses their mobile phone to dial a code to pay for a service. When at the doctor or dentist's office, he or she spends the voucher for the service by giving a unique code to the healthcare professional. Once this is done, Yaron Care pays the healthcare provider for the service.

The voucher approach allows customers to buy health services for family members for a defined period of time. Vouchers can also be sent to family members for emergencies.

LINKS:

1) South Africa's Afridoctor mobile phone application claims to be Africa's first personal mobile health clinic. It lets patients use its "SnapDiagnosis" system to submit photos of their ailments and in turn receive advice from a panel of medical professionals, or use the mapping feature to find doctors, clinics and health industry-related services nearby. **Website:** <http://twitter.com/afridoctor>

2) Ghana's mPedigree uses cell phones to build networks to tackle and identify counterfeit drugs. **Website:** <http://mpedigree.net>

3) Indian ID Project is Foundation for Future Economic Progress

India is in the midst of the biggest national identification project in the country's history. The aim is for every Indian to receive a voluntary electronic identification card containing his or her details and a unique number. Called an Aadhaar, it is a 12-digit unique number registered with the Unique Identification Authority of India (<http://uidai.gov.in>) (UIDAI). The project joins a growing trend across the global South to map populations in order to better achieve development goals.

About one-third of the world's urban dwellers live in slums, and the United Nations estimates that number will double by 2030 as a result of rapid urbanization in developing countries. How to improve slum-dwellers' living conditions and raise their standard of living is the big challenge of the 21st century.

With just four years to go until the 2015 deadline to meet the Millennium Development Goals (<http://www.undp.org/mdg>), and the current economic downturn reversing some gains, any tool that can make development decisions more precise has to be a benefit.

Innovators are turning to the opportunities afforded by digital technologies to reach slums and poor areas. The approaches vary, from India's national identification system to new ways of using mobile phones and Internet mapping technologies. With mobile phones now available across much of the global South, and plans underway to expand access to broadband internet even in poorly served Africa, it is becoming possible to develop a digital picture of a slum and poor areas and map population needs.

Put to the right use, this powerful development tool can fast-track the delivery of aid and better connect people to markets and government services. In a country of severe regional disparities and caste (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caste>) divisions, the national identification number has the advantage of not documenting people in a way that would bring prejudice.

India's Aadhaar is intended to serve a number of goals, from increasing national security to managing citizen identities, facilitating e-governance initiatives and tackling illegal immigration. While critics of ID schemes

complain about the civil liberties implications of national identity card projects (www.bigbrotherwatch.org.uk), it is a fact that countries that want to increase the social benefits available to their citizens need to understand who those citizens are, where they live and what their social needs are. India's problem to date has been a lack of knowledge of its citizens: many millions exist in a limbo world of not being known to local authorities.

The unique number is stored in a database and contains details on the person's demographics (name, age, etc.) and biometrics (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biometrics>) - a photograph, 10 fingerprints and an iris scan. Residents in an area find out about the Aadhaar through various sources, from local media to local government agencies. An 'Enrolment Camp' is established in the area where people go to register, bringing anything they have that can prove their identity. The biometric scanning takes place here. ID cards are issued between 20 and 30 days later.

On January 13, 2011 the project declared it had registered its millionth person, a 15-year-old named Sukrity from North Tripura. The goal is to register 600 million people in the next four years.

One of the immediate advantages to many poor people is gaining access to banking services for the first time, because an Aadhaar number is accepted as sufficient ID to open a bank account. The identification authority says the scheme will be "pivotal in bringing financial services to the millions of unbanked people in the country, who have been excluded so far because of their lack of identification."

The Times of India reported in 2010 that Khaiver Hussain, a homeless man in an addiction treatment programme, was able to get a bank account after receiving the identification number. He was able to open an account with the Corporation Bank along with 27 other homeless people. Having a bank account has removed the fear he had of being robbed of his meagre savings while he slept.

Another homeless day labourer, Tufail Ahmed from Uttar Pradesh, said "This passbook and the UID card have given people like me a new identity. It has empowered us." He has been able to use the saved money to rent a room with four other day labourers.

In countries where no national ID card schemes exist, people are turning to other methods to register and map populations in order to improve their living conditions.

In Kenya and Brazil, digital mapping projects are underway using mobile phones to paint a picture of the population living in slum areas and shanty towns. An NGO called Map Kibera (www.mapkibera.org) began work on an ambitious project to digitally map Africa's largest slum, Kibera in Nairobi, Kenya. The Map Kibera project uses an open-source software programme, OpenStreetMap (www.openstreetmap.org), to allow users to edit and add information as it is gathered.

An NGO called Rede Jovem (www.redejovem.org.br) is deploying youths armed with GPS (global positioning system)-equipped (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Positioning_System) mobile phones to map the favelas of Rio de Janeiro.

Powerful tools now exist to aid digital mapping. Google Maps (www.maps.google.com) is one example.

While the project is impressively ambitious - and it remains to be seen if it is completed as planned - the economic and development implications of this vast data collection and national identification are enormous. It will enable very accurate identification of markets and needs and also of development challenges and needs. This should lead to many business innovations in the country in coming years and also draw in more business from outside the country.

LINKS:

1) Ushahidi is a website that was developed to map reports of violence in Kenya after the post-election fallout at the beginning of 2008. The new Ushahidi Engine has been created to use the lessons learned from Kenya to create a platform that allows anyone around the world to set up their own way to gather reports by mobile phone, email and the web - and map them. It is being built so that it can grow with the changing environment of the web, and to work with other websites and online tools. **Website:** <http://blog.ushahidi.com/>

2) Google Android: Get inventing! This software enables anyone to start making applications for mobile phones. And it offers a platform for developers to then sell their applications (apps). **Website:** www.android.com

4) Ghana's Funeral Economy Innovates and Exports

The West African nation of Ghana's funeral economy is attracting innovation and grabbing attention outside the country. The nation's elaborate – but expensive – funeral rituals provide craftsmen with a good income. And new products are being introduced to handle the financial consequences of this unavoidable fact of life.

As Africa undergoes the biggest shift from rural to urban in its history, the continent is experiencing a technology boom, mainly led by the mobile phone. Mobile phones have become important transactional tools in daily life, enabling people to communicate and to do business, thanks to micropayments and prepay. Interwoven in these twin phenomena of greater urbanization and the mobile phone economy is a rising and growing middle class population with spare cash to spend on more than just the basics of survival. And all of this is throwing up new economies and new products to sell to these middle class customers.

It is in this context that Ghana's flamboyant and vibrant funeral ceremonies have become an economy unto themselves.

Ghana's crafty craftsmen have developed a global reputation for their bizarre but highly skilled coffin designs. They build striking coffins of elaborate designs and shapes and flamboyant colours. The coffins usually take on the shape of an aspect of the deceased's former profession or vocation. For example, a pilot gets buried in a mock-up of the plane they flew, or a farmer is buried in his main crop, like a giant corn cob.

It is proof the creative economy works and adds value to existing products and services. What were just simple coffins for a utilitarian task (burying the dead) becomes an elaborate work of art and transforms burial into a grander experience.

One of the most popular designs is the now-ubiquitous and much-coveted mobile phone: Africa's great electronic connector. And it is the mobile phone that is allowing people to buy life insurance to be able to pay for the coffins and elaborate funerals.

Mobile money is a dynamic and fast-growing industry that is firmly established in the global South. Some are forecasting the market in mobile payments will reach US \$60 billion by 2015.

A range of companies are now offering life insurance policies that can be paid for in small "micropayments" by mobile phone. This is an important service for people who may not have a formal bank account and who can be devastated by the costs of a family member's funeral.

The two companies pioneering this "micro-insurance" service are Hollard Insurance (<http://www.hollard.co.za>) and Mobile Financial Services Africa (<http://mfsafrica.com>). Both are offering funeral insurance by mobile phones. Working with MTN - Africa's largest mobile phone group (www.mtn.com.gh) - they are launching the mi-Life insurance product, sold for between US 0.80 cents and US \$4 for a month's coverage.

MTN pioneered its Mobile Money service in 2009. Out of 9 million MTN mobile phone subscribers in Ghana, 1.8 million have signed up for the opportunity to pay bills and make other financial transactions over their mobile phones.

Selling life insurance by mobile phones is radically altering the marketplace for this product. Life insurance had been out of the scope of most Ghanaians just as bank accounts were beyond the reach of the poor.

Jeremy Leach, head of micro-insurance at Hollard, told AllWestAfrica (allwestafrica.com), that 55 percent of Ghanaians say they can't afford life insurance. "In terms of affordability, we've tried to address that."

MTN Mobile Money Ghana's general manager, Bruno Akpaka, told the Financial Times mi-Life is 50 to 70 per cent cheaper than comparable policies.

Subscribers sign up by using their mobile PIN (personal identification number) at a local kiosk, or send a short message service (SMS) on their handset. Once signed up, a monthly premium is taken from their account. When it runs out, they top it up at the kiosk again.

It currently offers basic funeral cover: a lump sum to the family when the main income earner dies. This money is used towards the costs of expensive funerals. Other products in the pipeline include insurance for school fees.

For the coffin craftsmen, the fast-growing economy of African online shopping is helping with sales. The elaborate craft coffins can be bought online from various platforms including eShopAfrica.com, which promises to sell "fair trade direct from Africa." Its dedicated Ghana coffin pages (www.eshopafrika.com/acatalog/Ga_Coffins.html) advertise small coffins that take a month to make, and larger ones can take up to three months to build. Prices advertised on the eShop site range from US \$1,500 for a full-sized, six-foot coffin, to US \$175 for a "desk top chest."

Designs range from a mobile phone to a Ferrari race car to a computer mouse. But it is not just the resting places for the deceased that are on sale. The cabinet- and coffin-making skills are also turned to making a wide range of storage cabinets in bright colours and imaginative shapes, from a football to a red pepper and a beer-bottle shaped drinks cabinet.

The global attention for the craftsman has been impressive. They are lauded by fine art collectors around the world and have been shown in galleries such as London's Jack Bell Gallery (www.jackbellgallery.com/paajo.html). The legendary coffin artist Paa Joe is one of the most featured in gallery shows.

LINKS:

1) Shop Africa 53: An online shopping website allowing independent traders to vend their products to the rest of Africa and the world. **Website:** www.shopafrika53.com

3) Going into Darkness: Fantastic Coffins from Africa by Thierry Secretan, details the culture and the craftsmen, behind the iconic coffins. **Website:** www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0500278393/cordelinetwebstu%22

4) Creative Economy Programme: The creative economy is an emerging concept dealing with the interface between creativity, culture, economics and technology in a contemporary world dominated by images, sounds, texts and symbols. **Website:** www.unctad.org/Templates/StartPage.asp?intlItemID=4577&lang=1

Window on the World

Books

How the West Was Lost: Fifty Years of Economic Folly – And the Stark Choices Ahead by Dambisa Moyo, Publisher: Allen Lane. The new book from challenging thinker Moyo, it argues the West needs to start following China's economic model or face economic ruin. **Website:** www.amazon.com

The China Miracle: Development Strategy and Economic Reform by Justin Yifu Lin, Publisher: The Chinese University Press. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

Africa in the Global Economy by Richard E. Mshomba, Publisher: Lynne Rienner. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

The Recession Prevention Handbook: Eleven Case Studies, 1948-2007 by Norman Frumkin, Publisher: M. E. Sharpe. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

The Roller Coaster Economy: Financial Crises, Great Recession and the Public Option by Howard J. Sherman, Publisher: M. E. Sharpe. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance by David McNally, Publisher: PM Press. *Global Slump* analyzes the global financial meltdown as the first systemic crisis of the neoliberal stage of capitalism. It argues that – far from having ended – the crisis has ushered in a whole period of worldwide economic and political turbulence. In developing an account of the crisis as rooted in fundamental features of capitalism, *Global Slump* challenges the view that its source lies in financial deregulation. **Website:** https://secure.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=271

Aftershock: Reshaping the World Economy After the Crisis by Philippe Legrain, Publisher: Little, Brown. **Website:** <http://www.philippelegrain.com/aftershock/>

Creative Ecologies: Where Thinking is a Proper Job by John Howkins, Publisher: UQP. **Website:** <http://www.creativeeconomy.com/think.htm>

The Global Crisis: The Path to the World Afterwards by Frank Biancheri, Publisher: Anticipolis. **Website:** http://www.anticipolis.eu/en_index.php

The Age of Empathy: Nature's Lessons for a Kinder Society by Frans de Waal, Publisher: Crown. **Website:** www.amazon.com

Arrival City by Doug Saunders, Publisher: Pantheon. A third of humanity is on the move. History's largest migration is creating new urban spaces that are this century's focal points of conflict and change — centres of febrile settlement that will reshape our cities and reconfigure our economies. **Website:** <http://arrivalcity.net/>

China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit? by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development. **Website:** http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf

Globalization and Competition: Why Some Emergent Countries Succeed while Others Fall Behind by Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, Publisher: Cambridge University Press. **Website:** http://www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12_GACL.htm

Tourism and Poverty Reduction: Pathways to Prosperity by Jonathan Mitchell and Caroline Ashley, Publisher: Earthscan. **Website:** <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=92842&v=497073>

State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods Development Publisher: Making Cents International. **Website:** <http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org>

Urban World: A New Chapter in Urban Development Publisher: UNHABITAT **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/31244004/Urban-World-A-New-Chapter-in-Urban-Development>

Papers and Reports

Information Economy Report 2010: ICTs, Enterprises and Poverty Alleviation Publisher: UNCTAD. **Website:** <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=13912&intItemID=2068&lang=1>

State of China's Cities: 2010/2011: Better City, Better Life Publisher: UNHABITAT. **Website:** <http://www.scribd.com/doc/39882697/State-of-China-s-Cities-Report-2010-2011>

Still our Common Interest: Commission for Africa Report 2010 Publisher: Commission for Africa **Website:** <http://www.commissionforafrica.info/2010-report>

World Economic Outlook Update: Restoring Confidence without Harming Recovery Publisher: IMF. **Website:** <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/update/02/index.htm>

Trade and Development Report, 2010: Employment, Globalization and Development Publisher: UNCTAD. **Website:** <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=13740&intItemID=2068&lang=1>

Empowering People and Transforming Society: The World Economic Forum's Technology Pioneers 2011 Publisher: World Economic Forum. **Website:**
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/35953976/Technology-Pioneers-2011>

The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries Publisher: OECD.
Website:
<http://www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmmp8lncrns-en>
(PDF - 2.09 mb)

The BRICSAM Countries and Changing World Economic Power: Scenarios to 2050 by Manmohan Agarwal, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power. Africa and Mexico has the potential to change the balance of economic power in the world. This paper analyzes this potential building on developments in these economies over the past four decades in the context of the evolution of the world economy. **Website:**
http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_39-web-1.pdf

The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa by Hany Besada, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: *Shifting Global Power*. This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development. **Website:**
http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf

Europe-North Korea: Between Humanitarianism and Business? Edited by Myungkyu Park, Bernhard Seliger and Sung-Jo Park, Publisher: LIT.
Website: [www.gpic.nl/EU - North Korea book.pdf](http://www.gpic.nl/EU-North%20Korea%20book.pdf)

Global Economic Decoupling Alive and Well Emerging economies decouple from the US, come closer to Europe. **Website:**
<http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article23670.html>

The Global Financial Crisis and Africa's "Immiserizing Wealth" Research Brief, United Nations University, Number 1 2010. **Website:**
http://www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU_ResearchBrief_10-01.pdf

Where Western business sees 'risk', Chinese entrepreneurs see opportunity by Dr Jing Gu. Dr Gu and her China based team from the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) have had direct access to private Chinese companies working in Africa, including 100 in-depth interviews with Chinese firms and business associations and officials in both China and Africa. **Website:**
<http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/where-western-business-sees-risk-chinese-entrepreneurs-see-opportunity>

Can China Save Western Economies From Collapse? **Website:**
<http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article19484.html>

China's economic invasion of Africa **Website:**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/06/chinas-economic-invasion-of-africa>

Africa begins to make poverty history: US economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case **Website:**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history>

On the Web

Blogs and Websites

mDirectory: The mDirectory is the most comprehensive database of information on mobile tech for social change on the Web: case studies, mobile tools, research, and how-to guides. **Website:** <http://mobileactive.org/directory>

Global Development: Launched in September 2010, this new website from the Guardian newspaper will track progress on the MDGs, encourage debate on its blogs, offer a rich store of datasets from around the world, and feature monthly podcasts and resources for schools. **Website:** www.guardian.co.uk/global-development

Latameconomy Website Launches

Latameconomy.org is the latest evolution of the annual Latin American Economic Outlook report, essentially bringing its trusted, high quality content into the digital age. Its wide country coverage and methods of analysis are essential for anyone seeking to understand the economic, social and political developments of Latin American countries.

Website: <http://www.latameconomy.org/en/>

International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs)

International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs) is a pluralist network of progressive economists across the world, engaged in research, teaching and dissemination of critical analyses of economic policy and development.

Website: <http://www.networkideas.org/>

OECD: Tackling the economic crisis website

The global economic crisis is entering a new phase amid signs of a return to positive growth in many countries. But unemployment is likely to remain high and much still needs to be done to underpin a durable recovery. This website will track the recovery.

Website:

http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en_2649_201185_41707672_1_1_1_1,00.html

The Global Urbanist: News and analysis of cities around the world: planning, governance, economy, communities, environment, international. **Website:** www.globalurbanist.com

ICT Update: A bimonthly printed bulletin, a web magazine, and an accompanying email newsletter that explores innovative uses of information technology in agriculture and rural development in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. **Website:** <http://ictupdate.cta.int/en/Regulars/Perspectives/%28issue%29/56>

Youth-Inclusive Financial Services (YFS-Link) Program website: The first space for financial services providers (FSPs) and youth-service organizations (YSOs) to gather, learn and share about youth-inclusive financial services. **Website:** www.yfslink.org

Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment **Website:** <http://triplecrisis.com/>

Full Disclosure: The Aid Transparency Blog: A Devex blog, written by members of the international community. **Website:** <http://www.devex.com/en/blogs/full-disclosure>

Africa Portal: An online knowledge resource offering researchers and opinion leaders a forum to share their insights on Africa and publish their work on pressing areas of concern to policymakers and the public. It aims to fill the gap in accessibility to research and information on policy issues on the continent. **Website:** www.africaportal.org

African Economic Outlook: A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels. **Website:** www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en

Africa Renewal: The *Africa Renewal* information programme, produced by the Africa Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information, provides up-to-date information and analysis of the major economic and development challenges facing Africa today. **Website:** <http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/>

Timbuktu Chronicles: A blog by Emeka Okafor
With “a view of Africa and Africans with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, practical remedies and other self-sustaining activities.” **Website:** <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.com/>

AfriGadget: AfriGadget is a must-read for African invention junkies. They are always on the look out for ingenious innovation that is new or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way, interesting in the sense that the story captures the imagination of others, inspiring others to see solutions in uncommon ways, practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way, and entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions. **Website:** www.afrigadget.com/

Interesting Blogger

Olunyi D. Ajao: An Internet entrepreneur & technology enthusiast with strong interests in web design and hosting, writing about mobile communications technologies, and blogging. Topics are aimed at web designers, SEOs, bloggers, Internet entrepreneurs and people with general interests in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa and the rest of Africa. **Website:** <http://www.davidajao.com/blog/>

Social Media

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally, driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: www.sacca.biz

AfriGadget on Facebook: 'Solving everyday problems with African ingenuity': **Website:** <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2402629579>

Start-up Funding

Crowdfund: A South African-based venture fund for technology start-ups in Africa. **Website:** <http://www.crowdfunding.co.za/>

Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: www.socialedge.org

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

Website: <http://pioneersofprosperity.org/index.php>

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of

£2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'.

Website: www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd

Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund

Website: www.echoinggreen.org/

Commonwealth Teams up with Private Equity Firm to Deliver up to \$400 Million in Investment in Africa

Small and medium enterprises across Africa are set to benefit from a multimillion dollar investment fund set up by private equity firm Aureos Capital (<http://www.aureos.com/>) with the Commonwealth Secretariat's assistance. The Aureos Africa Fund, launched in November following feasibility and due diligence studies funded by the Secretariat, will provide long-term capital and support for promising and successful businesses across the continent. Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Ransford Smith, speaking at the launch of the fund at the Marriot Hotel in London, UK, on 2 November 2009, hailed the fund's launch. He warned that investment in Africa was "critical" if recent development gains were not to be lost amid the current worldwide recession. "This fund has the potential to make a real contribution to Commonwealth countries in Africa, by helping ordinary businesses to reach their potential and boost much needed growth and jobs across the continent," he said.

Website:

<http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/215560/021109aureoscapital.htm>

The Africa Land Fund

The fund has raised almost €2 billion from an American pension fund to invest in African agriculture. The Africa Land Fund, created by the UK-based hedge fund Emergent Asset Management, wants to raise a total of €3 billion and is canvassing a range of investors. It plans to invest in agricultural land and livestock, including African game, which will be sold on to private reserves and safari parks. The fund also plans to develop bio fuel crops on marginal land, saving prime agricultural acreage for crops to feed people.

Email: info@eaml.net

Tel: +44 (0) 1428 656 966

Fax: +44 (0) 1428 656 955

Challenge

InnoCentive (<http://www.innocentive.com/>) is a challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable. It is an open marketplace where anybody with a problem can post it, and rewards for effective solutions stretch up to US \$100,000. They use rigorous intellectual property protection so ideas are not stolen without credit being given to the inventor. **Website:**

www.rockfound.org/about_us/news/2007/0720first_seeker.shtml

Video

Forum for the Future: Compelling animated videos exploring the hard choices of an urbanizing world and the need to promote sustainable development and environmental harmony. **Website:** <http://www.youtube.com/user/forumforthefuture96>

Events

2011

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

Check out our new website: www.southsouthspark.org

We have a new magazine launching this year: stay tuned for more developments.

April

Housing Forum Europe and Central Asia

Budapest, Hungary (4-6 April 2011)

The past few years have demonstrated just how central housing is to our economic, environmental and human development in the Europe and Central Asia region. Housing is central to many aspects of our lives: education, security, health, employment, communities and even our identity. For the first time, housing decision makers, professionals, policy makers and other major stakeholders are aiming to build a sustainable and resilient housing future for Europe and Central Asia.

Website: <http://www.ecahousingforum.eu/>

Brand Protection & Anti-Counterfeiting Interactive Forum

Copenhagen, Denmark (11-13 April 2011)

Brand Protection and Anti-Counterfeiting: Interactive Forum 2011 is the 5th brand protection event in Legal IQ's Brand Protection Series, bringing you the latest case studies, essential best practise strategies and the new and emerging topics from world-leading brand owners. Join your peers and protect your brand against IPR infringements, counterfeiters and illicit trade.

Website: <http://www.brandprotectioninteractive.com/Event.aspx?id=438196>

Engineering Sustainability 2011 Innovation and the Triple Bottom Line

Pittsburgh, PA, USA (10 - 12 April 2011)

Engineering Sustainability 2011 will bring together engineers and scientists from academia, government, industry, and non-profits to share results of cutting edge research and practice directed at development of environmentally sustainable buildings and infrastructure.

Website: <http://www.mascarocenter.pitt.edu/conference/>

The 1st Liberian Mining, Energy & Petroleum Conference & Exhibition

Monrovia, Liberia (11-13 April 2011)

LIMEP 2011 is a turnkey event focusing on Liberia's mining, energy and petroleum potential and their sustainable development. LIMEP will feature three days of conference sessions, a trade exhibition, round table discussions, seminars as well as touristic trips and mine site visits. The inaugural LIMEP will gather international investors, industry experts, Liberian decision makers, development partners and donors, as well as other key actors and partners in Liberia's extractive industries. The main theme of LIMEP 2011 is "Integrating the mining, petroleum and energy sectors into the development strategy for a Liberia that is moving forward."

Website: <http://www.limep.com/html/indexEN.html>

World Economic Forum on Latin America 2011

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (27-29 April 2011)

Latin America, a thriving region of more than 600 million people, has a promising decade ahead. It is a leading global trader of agro-products with major reserves of raw materials and immense rainforests, which are vital for the global climate and hold potential for renewable energies. Major global environment and sports events are to take place in the region in the coming years, and most countries are on the front line in attracting private investment. They offer remarkable opportunities for a growing number of modern industries to develop, while innovative reforms are being promoted to foster economic growth and improve the quality of life for the majority.

Website: <http://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-latin-america-2011>

May

World Economic Forum on Africa 2011

Cape Town, South Africa (4-6 May 2011)

Africa has demonstrated greater than expected resilience through the global economic crisis and has become one of the fastest-growing regions in the world. Improved political and macroeconomic stability, strengthened political commitment to private sector investment and better access to basic education and social services are drivers behind this trend. However, the translation of growth into inclusive and sustained development is complex. It will depend on the leadership capacity and political will of its governing institutions to direct taxes, profits and donor funds to much-needed infrastructure investment, better urban design and critical health, and education services.

Website: <http://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-africa-2011>

African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics

Johannesburg, South Africa (5-19 May 2011)

APORDE is a high-level training programme in development economics which aims to build capacity in economics and economic policy-making. The course will run for two weeks and consist of lectures and seminars taught by leading international and African economists.

Website: http://networkideas.org/events/oct2010/aporde_call_2011.pdf

Broadband World Forum Asia 2011

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (10-11 May 2011)

The largest broadband event in the Asia-Pacific region. Bringing together over 2,500 experts including 1,000's of fixed & mobile operators from both developed and emerging markets across Asia.

Website: <http://www.broadbandworldforum.com/asia>

E-Health Week

Budapest, Hungary (10-12 May 2011)

eHealth week is a platform for all stakeholders in the Health IT community and compliments your national conference, by: Offering answers by high-level speakers; Presenting a modern and wide-ranging exhibition, including an interoperability showcase to demonstrate how data can travel across different suppliers and borders; Allowing you to network with government- and industry leaders from across the European continent; an opportunity rarely seen at other European conferences.

Website: <http://www.worldofhealthit.org/>

Internet World: Setting the Digital Agenda

London, UK (10-12 May 2011)

Over 300 solution providers and 12,000 visitors, combining **five shows in one event**, Internet World is the event for digital marketing and online business! The Internet is worth over £100 billion to the UK economy. Fast changing, ever adapting and creating more competition every second the need to be ahead of the game has never been more important!

Website: <http://www.internetworld.co.uk/>

World Summit on the Information Society

Geneva, Switzerland (16-20 May 2011)

ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP welcome all WSIS Stakeholders to the WSIS Forum 2011 website. WSIS Forum 2011 will be held from 16th to 20th May 2011 and will provide structured opportunities to network, learn and to participate in multi-stakeholder discussions and consultations on WSIS implementation. This event builds upon the tradition of annual WSIS May meetings, and its new format is the result of open consultations with all WSIS Stakeholders. WSIS Forum 2010 marked the way forward in creating a reflection of the "WSIS spirit" and the euphoria felt during the Geneva and Tunis Summits. WSIS stakeholders participated enthusiastically and eagerly in all the interactive sessions and debates, and the new forward-looking WSIS campaign "Turning Targets into Action" mirrors their ambition to achieve the WSIS targets by 2015.

Website: <http://groups.itu.int/wsis-forum2011/Home.aspx>

World Economic Forum on the Middle East 2011

Dead Sea, Jordan (20-22 May 2011)

In the coming decade, the Middle East region will undergo transformational change, both economically and geopolitically. As many countries reach a demographic tipping point, their trade relations mature and their position in the global energy industry is reshaped, the promise of a regional economic boom is not without challenge. The meeting in Jordan aims to provide a forward-looking perspective on this transformation. Will new governments in Iraq and Egypt, Turkey's new leadership, volatile Arab-Israeli relations, sanctions on

Iran and the US withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan usher in a revision of business strategies? Will the regional powers be able to shape climate change negotiations and the global response to risks associated with the energy-water-food equation? How will Europe's management of its sovereign debt and increasingly protectionist trade policies affect the economic landscape in the region in the near term?

Website: <http://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-middle-east-2011>

6th International Conference on ICT for Development, Education and Training

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (25-27 May 2011)

eLearning Africa 2011 will focus on youth but it will also highlight the importance of skills, skill development and employability. Is it appropriate then to refer to Africa's youth as '*digital natives*' or '*Generation Y*'? Whilst the majority of Africa's young population can be more appropriately considered as 'digital outcasts,' there are layers of African youth who have had varying experiences with 'growing up digitally'. What are these experiences and how are they manifested?

Website: <http://www.elearning-africa.com/>

Global Forum on Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Creating Sustainable Businesses in the Knowledge Economy

Helsinki, Finland (30 May to 4 June 2011)

The Government of Finland will host the 4th Global Forum on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, a biennial *infoDev* flagship event that convenes a global grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship community to discuss issues of interest, explore new business models, ideas and methodologies, as well as to network with one another. Previous Global Forums were held in India and Brazil and convened over 1,000 professionals from more than 70 countries. The 4th Global Forum will feature the following activities:

An Innovation policy roundtable convening developing country policymakers who have put innovation and entrepreneurship at the forefront of their development agenda. A Technology Venture Showcase to facilitate international market access and early-stage financing for technology entrepreneurs and start-ups.

Website: <http://www.infodev.org/en/Project.118.html>

UN Conference on Least Developed Countries

Istanbul, Turkey (30 May to 3 June 2011)

The purpose of the conference is to:

1. Assess the results of the 10-year action plan for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs in Brussels, Belgium, in 2001.
2. Adopt new measures and strategies for the sustainable development of the LDCs into the next decade.

Preparations for the conference are in progress, with activities at national, regional and global levels. It is an inclusive process involving the participation

of all stakeholders, including governments, international organisations, civil society organisations, academia and the private sector.

Website: <http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ldc/home>

June

Two Decades of Democracy and Governance in Africa: Lessons Learned, Challenges and Prospects

Dakar, Senegal (20-22 June 2011)

International Conference on: Two Decades of Democracy and Governance in Africa: Lessons Learned, Challenges and Prospects organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Addis Ababa, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Dakar and Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC

Website: <http://www.iag-agi.org/spip/Two-Decades-of-Democracy-and,1758.html>

Will the 'BRICS Decade' continue? – Prospects for Trade and Growth

Halle, Germany (23-24 June 2011)

The IAMO Forum 2011 will focus on growth and trade in the world's leading emerging economies Brazil, Russia, India, and China (BRICs) and the repercussions on the world economy.

Website:

<http://forum2011.iamo.de>

September

2011 Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference

Washington, DC, USA (7-9 September 2011)

This 5th anniversary conference will provide a learning platform for the world's leading funders, practitioners, technical assistance providers, policy makers, and academics working to increase and improve economic opportunities for young people. Join 400 professionals from over 60 countries to share lessons learned, promising practices, and innovative ideas through technical workshops, engaging plenary sessions, and interactive networking. The result? Higher-impact programming, breakthrough solutions, and proven approaches. **Website:** <http://www.youtheconomicopportunities.org/>

Email: conference@makingcents.com.

Rethinking Development in an Age of Scarcity and Uncertainty

York, UK (19-22 September 2011)

New Values, Voices and Alliances for Increased Resilience. The EADI-DSA 2011 joint conference seeks to be one convening space to fundamentally *revisit and rethink the development paradigm(s) in all its dimensions in an era of plurality, uncertainty and change*. The EADI-DSA 2011 conference seeks to maximise the opportunity of working together and to revisit and rethink 'development', to generate new ideas, new narratives and new thinking whenever possible globally co-constructed with partners in global-South.

Website: <http://www.eadi.org/gc2011>

November

Social Singularity Summit

Amsterdam, Netherlands (11 November 2011)

A gathering of thinkers and entrepreneurs to explore the opportunities and visions of Social Singularity. The summit has been organized to further the understanding of how to speed up and use the newest technologies to make the world a better place.

Website: <http://www.nowmovement.org/detail/events>

Fourth High Level Forum: The Path to Effective Development

Busan, South Korea (29 November to 1 December 2011)

Ministers and specialists will not only take stock of what has been advanced since 2008, but also set out a new framework for increasing the quality of aid in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Developing countries have named their priorities for HLF-4 as: predictable aid; use of country systems; an end to policy conditionality; country-driven capacity development; mutual accountability and reduced transaction costs.

Website:

http://www.oecd.org/document/12/0,3343,en_2649_3236398_46057868_1_1_1_1,00.html

2012

Earth Summit 2012: Towards a World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2012

Rio, Brazil (TBC 2012)

The United Nations General Assembly agreed to a new Earth Summit in December. The Summit will be in 2012 and will be hosted by Brazil. The themes are the Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, the institutional framework for sustainable development, emerging issues and a review of present commitments. This site will keep you abreast of all the developments and latest news.

Website: <http://www.earthsummit2012.org/>

Awards and Funding

Zayed Future Energy Prize

The world is in desperate need of innovative solutions to create a new, sustainable energy future. No one knows who or where the next great energy solution will come from. Solutions and technologies that could change the world are being developed globally, and the \$2.2 million Zayed Future Energy Prize, managed by Masdar in Abu Dhabi, recognizes and rewards innovation, leadership, and long-term vision in renewable energy and sustainability.

Website: <http://www.zayedfutureenergyprize.com/>

Philips Liveable Cities Award

Philips is looking for individuals and community or non-government organizations and businesses with ideas for “simple solutions” that will

improve people's health and well-being in a city to enter the Philips Liveable Cities Award. To help translate these ideas into reality, three Award grants totalling €125,000 are on the line. One overall winning idea from any of the three categories outlined below will receive a grant of €75,000, while the two additional ideas will receive grants of €25,000.

Website: <http://www.because.philips.com/livable-cities-award/about-the-award>

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org

Special Award for South-South Transfer - winners announced!

UN-HABITAT, the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) and the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation are pleased to announce the winner of the Housing and Urban Development South-South Transfer Award, a special joint initiative which seeks to recognise housing and urban development practices that have been successfully transferred to other countries in the global South. The winner of the Housing and Urban Development South-South Transfer Award is **Un Techo Para mi País (A Roof for my Country)**, Chile, awarded for mobilising thousands of youth volunteers and transferring its innovative approach to 19 countries across Latin America.

The aim of the award is to identify, provide visibility, and honour those who have successfully shared their projects and approaches internationally, thereby increasing the impact of the initiative.

The winning practice receives US\$15,000 to further transfer the awarded practice to other communities in developing countries.

Website: www.southsouthexpo.org

South-South Experience Exchange Facility

Supported by Mexico, China, India, Denmark, Spain, The Netherlands, and the U.K. and now Colombia, the South-South Experience Exchange Facility is a multi donor trust fund that promotes the idea that developing countries can learn from the successes of other developing countries in overcoming similar challenges. In the past 12 months, the trust has given out 35 grants to countries for learning activities ranging from working with at risk youth in the Caribbean to outsourcing IT services in Africa.

Website: www.southsouthcases.info

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website:

http://www.trustafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

[Click here for more information](#)

or contact:

namstct@vsnl.com,

namstct@bol.net.in,

apknam@gmail.com

US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design

[AMD](#) and [Architecture for Humanity](#) have announced a prize of \$250 000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

Website: www.architectureforhumanity.org

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The University of Ghana (www.ug.edu.gh) has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a Green Revolution (www.agra-alliance.org) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: <http://www.acci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10>

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

Is a social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

Training

Ongoing

Jobs and Careers

Weitzenegger's International Development Job Market: **Website:**
<http://www.weitzenegger.de/new/jobmarket.php>

Global Knowledge Initiative

The Global Knowledge Initiative seeks to build global knowledge partnerships between individuals and institutions of higher education and research. It seeks to help partners access the global knowledge, technology, and human resources needed to sustain growth and achieve prosperity for all."

Website: www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org/

ExportHelp - Promoting and supporting access to the European market

The European Commission runs a database for the explicit support of market players in developing countries who want to bring their products to the EU market. The database gives an overview on the EU's preferential trade regimes established for developing countries as well as lists all tariffs, taxes and other requirements for goods imported into the EU.

Website: <http://exporthelp.europa.eu>

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects. **Website:** www.devex.org

Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africancareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and

development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website:

<http://bizzlounge.com>

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com>

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: <http://businessfightspoverty.ning.com>

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Zunia

By Development Exchange, it offers news, publications and networking opportunities with the world's development community.

Website: www.zunia.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway (now Zunia.org)

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporaafricanforum.org

Business Planet: a new data map on Entrepreneurship

Business Planet, an interactive Google map, now includes data on new business creation around the world. Measures of entrepreneurial activity are based on the number of total and newly registered corporations. Click on color markers to learn more about each country.

Website: <http://rru.worldbank.org/businessplanet/default.aspx?pid=8>

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [Find a Job in Africa](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)